Pakistan's Military Exercise "ZARBE-E-MOMIN"

155. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: SHRi ANAND SHARMA;

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of Pakistan's heavy preparations for military exercises "Zerbe-e-M'omin" held in the border areas of Jammu and Kashmir and what is Government's reaction thereto;;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the reports that choice of the area for military exercises has been made in the light of late Pakistan's President Zia-ul-Haq's plan called "Opperation topac" to attack Jammu and Kashmir after mounting terrorists pressure inside Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir; and

(c) if so, how do Government view the heavy build up of Pak Army on Jammu and Kashmir borders for war game "Zerbe-e-Momin" and what me asures have been taken by Govern ment to meet any threat to the coun try's security?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The exercise is being conducted away from the Indian border.

(b) Many reasons are possible for selecting the area of the exercise. The Government studies the implica tions of aH probable factor$_s$ in such matters.

(c) A close watch is kept on all de velopments having a bearing on our national security and appropriate me asures are taken from time to time to ensure full defence preparedness.

Promotion of Section Officers in the Central Secretariat Services

156. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had granted promotion to the Section Officers of Central Secretariat Service with 12 to 13 years of service in that grade on personal and *ad-hoc* basic during 1985-86, with a view to avoid prevalent discontentment among the Section Officers;

(b) what are the details of such ad-hoc persona] promotions;

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to promote the other Section Officers as to assuage their feeling *on* the same analogy; and

(d) by when Government would promote these officers with 12 to 13 years in the grade on the same ana logy?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER FOR PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND' PENSIONS (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir, However, in September 1984, 60 officers of the Section Officers' Grade of the Central Secretariat Service were given ad-hoc promotion as Under Secretary on a temporary basis by upgrading 60 posts of Desk Officers/ Section Officers, held by them, to the level of Under Secretary as personal to thern.

(c) and (d) Promotions to next higher Grade are generally ordered on availability of vacancies in the higher Grade and not on personal basis. The promotion of eligible Section Officers in accordance with Re-cruitment Rules, will therefore, depend upon availability of vacances in Under Secretary's Grade.

Backlog Vacancies for SC/ST in KVS

157. SHRIMATI BIJOY CHAKRAVARTY; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) what are the details of posts of different categories of employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan reser ved as per provisions, for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, for the year/session 1988/1988-89 and 1989/ 1989-90;

(b) the details of backlog vacan cies, if any; and

(c) the derails of efforts made for and success achieved in filling vacancies of the current and preceding years/sessions in respect of different categories of posts of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON).- (a) to (c) Statement indicating the requisite details is enclosed. *[See* Appendix CLII, Annexure 3] Apart from specifically indicating the reservation of posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the usual annual advertisements which are published in the Employment News and various News papers, the Sangathan has launched a special drive for filling up the post reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, including the backlog vacancies through special advertisements in Employment News and various News papers. The drive is still continuing.

Popularisation of Computers in the Country

158. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to popularise computers in the country;

(b) whether Government have also any proposal to set up village-based computers; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) 1. Department of Electronics (DOE) through its Public Sector Undertaking, namely. Electronics Trade & Technology Development Corporation Ltd. (ET&T) has launched a project to make available Personal Computers at low prices which are affordable by the public and is expected to popularise the use of computers in the country. ET&T has also made nationwide arrangements for the training and maintenance of these computer systems at low cost.

2. DOE in association with the Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched a programme for Computer Literacy and Studies in Schools (CLASS). The programme aims at building computer awareness amongst school children.

3. The computer industry has recorded considerable growth and the applications of computers in various sectors of economy have increased manifold. The usage of computer systems has been promoted in various sectors such as steel, oil, fertilizer, power, banking, insurance, railways etc.

Assessment of Small Farmers and Landless Labourers

159. SHRi SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment about the percentage of small farmers and landless labourers likely to ,go below the poverty line in Rajasthan due to drought;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) what remedial measures have been taken or are proposed to be taken by the central Government in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Drought Prone Area Programme has been in operation with the object of creating assets designed to reduce the severity of droughts. The Desert Development Programmes and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana were also designed to help in poverty alleviation.